

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. It is noted that Applicant's reply filed October 14, 2008 placed the application prima facie in condition for allowance based on the record at that time. However, subsequent review has determined that informality was present in claims 1, 2 and 10 which was not previously brought to Applicant's attention. In lieu of reopening prosecution, the following Examiner's amendment is set forth below.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Enrique G Estevez on March 30, 2009.
4. **In the claims:**
  - Claim 1, line 2 "or a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO: 1" has been deleted.
  - Claim 2, line 2, "or a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO: 2" has been deleted.
  - Claim 10, line 1, "a" has been changed to -- the --
5. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending and allowed.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong Huynh "NEON" whose telephone number is (571) 272-0846. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:30 p.m. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone

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are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen B O'Hara can be reached on (571) 272-0887. The IFW official Fax number is (703) 872-9306.

7. Any information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phuong Huynh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644

March 31, 2009